

**QUESTION #6:** *Will you continue to support Neighborhood Services Specialists, even if Measure G isn't passed by the voters? Why/why not?*

**DONALD HEDRICK:** What an odd concept to have neighborhood service specialists that specialize in existing off of sales tax revenues. That would be an incentive to question the need for tagging on that extra tax in the first place. Our neighborhoods need to do a better job of solving their own problems. More involvement by citizens to interact with their neighborhoods and friendly persuasion should be tried first instead of making it somebody's job to do what nobody will do for them selves. It is a richer experience for the neighborhood to first try to solve conflicts amongst the conflicted. Humanity should have first try at human problems before calling in the corporation answers to conflict.

**JAN MARX:** The creation of the Neighborhood Service Specialist program, which I supported, was made possible by Measure Y funding. If Measure G does not pass, such added programs will be closely scrutinized as the City deals with a 12% reduction in General Fund revenue. I would favor retention and expansion of the Neighborhood Service program, if Measure G passes.

**JEFFERY SPECHT:** I would agree to keep them on. I'm not ok where the fines from those violations are going. I would like to see all of that money earmarked and go directly toward fixing the problems rather than going into the General Fund so the City Manager can spend it wherever she wants.

**DANIEL CANO:** Yes. They are an essential part of the neighborhood wellness program and play a growing role in addressing community issues.

**CARLYN CHRISTIANSON:** I really love the Neighborhood Service Specialists model, and I would hope to support this program's continued funding even without Measure G, although as with all budget decisions, these things are decided within a much broader context. My ex-husband was a former police officer with 10 years of experience, and I learned from him the importance of knowing the neighborhoods and the people in it; the importance of continuity when providing neighborhood protection; the key role that trusted communication plays in dealing with a neighborhood's particular problems. I believe that the benefits and value of this approach are being demonstrated now in many areas of the city and I would hope very much that the community would continue to support spending the city's revenues on this great program. (In fact, Measure G passing will be required in order to address most issues contained in these questions, because most of the solutions involve more resources, i.e., people.)

**MICHAEL CLARK:** Hiring Neighborhood Services Specialists has led to significant improvements in Neighborhood Wellness. It takes less time for violations to be corrected than it has in years. They have proven their value to neighborhoods across the city, and they must be retained irrespective of the Measure G vote's outcome. They respond to debris in yards, stuffed couches and chairs on porches, furniture on roofs, parking in yards, abandoned appliances and more – essentially they are on the front line of “fighting blight” throughout our city. Their focus is on things that we can see from the public right-of-way. In that respect, they are a major asset in keeping San Luis Obispo the city we want it to be – clean, friendly, and appealing to residents and visitors alike.

**GORDON MULLIN:** Whether Measure G passes or not has nothing to do with the question of whether we keep people in these jobs. Zero. Because, no one can reach into a general obligation fund, pull out a dollar and claim to know the source of that dollar. You can't do it. If you could for Measure Y (now G) funds, you could do it for all incoming funds but no one makes that claim, for example, for property taxes. Conversely, no one can claim that a particular project or, in this case, job is funded by a given funding source. The city has continued to misrepresent how city budgets actually work and we should not buy into the threat that a loss at the ballot box for Measure G will automatically mean a cut to this position or indeed any other job or project. This is fear mongering, nothing less.

That said, if cuts are to be made if Measure G is defeated, I should not presume to know what council's priority will or should be. It's good politics to make the claim to protect this or that, get another vote, but bad public policy for a potential council member, or an existing one for that matter, to make that promise. All I can say is, you know my priorities. See above.

**DAN RIVOIRE:** I believe Neighborhood Service Specialists are essential to the effort to improve neighborhood quality of life. Nevertheless, the process of balancing varying resident needs is the most important responsibility of the Council.

San Luis Obispo residents have high expectations of the City. I am proud to be one of those demanding residents. Based on extensive public engagement, the City's current major goals are to address homelessness, neighborhood wellness, preserve fiscal health, enhance economic development, renew the downtown, build a skatepark, improve transportation circulation, and more. If Measure G failed, residents will need to work with the Council to identify which goals to pursue and services to reduce.